



Charles Bell, Programs Director, Consumers Union

Mr. Bell is Programs Director for Consumers Union, the nonprofit publisher of *Consumer Reports* magazine. Mr. Bell works on a wide range of consumer policy issues, including the internet, the environment, health care financial services and international trade. He has worked on advocacy on international trade issues with Consumers International, an international network of consumer organizations from over 100 countries, including serving on the CI delegation to the 2005 WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong.

Over his 24 years at Consumers Union, Mr. Bell has helped to initiate and develop a variety of programs involving outside funding and external alliances. These have included grant-funded projects to provide consumer and policy information on nursing home quality, preventive health services, dietary supplements, Medicare HMOs, external grievance programs, and to improve private, nonprofit and public services in low-income neighborhoods. He also manages Consumers Union's Colston E. Warne Program, which provides grants and technical assistance to U.S. and international consumer organizations.

Mr. Bell has written articles on health care and consumer affairs topics which have been published in the *Charlotte Observer*, *Gannett Suburban Newspapers*, the *San Francisco Examiner & Chronicle*, the *Seattle Times*, and the *Bulletin of the New York Academy of Medicine*.

Prior to joining Consumers Union in 1989, Mr. Bell worked as a research assistant for the Community Economic Stabilization Corporation, a nonprofit consulting firm in Portland, Oregon that promoted employee ownership. He also served as a research analyst at Northwest Environmental Advocates; executive director of the Oregon Fellowship of Reconciliation; and distribution coordinator for Oregon Food Share, a statewide anti-hunger program.

Mr. Bell holds a B.A. in political science from Antioch University, and is currently pursuing a master's degree in international business at the Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs.